The project authorities are presently formulating these plans on the basis of studies and surveys carried out.

(b) and (c) The World Bank has stipulated certain time frame for completion of various bench mark studies including preparation of environmental work plan and Narmada basin environmental management plan. The targets fixed by World Bank are being adhered to.

Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh

4102. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 'Kolleru Lake' in Andhra Pradesh is a water-fowl habitat;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that illegal encroachments of vast areas in this lake-bed have taken place;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conserve this wet-land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) With a view to improve its conservation status, Kolleru lake is included under the Wetlands Programme funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A portion of the lake has been also declared as a bird sanctuary. Financial assistance has been provided for the protection of water-fowl in Kolleru lake through strengthening of watch and ward patrolling, construction of watch towers, generating environment education and awareness and research aspects.

Hooghly Waters unfit for bathing

4103. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Hooghly waters unfit for bathing' which appeared in the Times of India dated 27th November, 1991;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clean this river.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The water quality of Ganga is being regularly monitored along 20 locations including 4 locations in West Bengal. The water of Ganga in West Bengal satisfies the criteria prescribed for bathing except in the case of foecal coliforms. Some heavy metals are present but at their concentrations they do not make water unfit for bathing.

(c) In West Bengal 110 schemes for abatement of pollution have been sanctioned out of which 77 have been completed. Except for a few schemes, the remaining schemes are expected to be completed in 1993-94, after which the water quality is expected to improve further.

Scheme to develop Forest on Bald Hills and Canal Bank

4104. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Forest on Bald Hills and

Canal Banks specially in drought affected Area of the Country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any Scheme or proposal from the States in relation to afforestation in 'Bald Hills' which are badly affected by drought; and

(c) whether Government propose to develop Forests in the drought and famine affected tribal districts of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Afforestation and tree planting programmes include coverage of bald hills and canal banks in the drought affected areas. Implementation of these programmes is at the State level and funding for this purpose is under the ongoing Central and State Plan schemes, like Drought Prone Areas Programme, Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests, Integrated Wastlands Development Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, externally aided Forestry Projects, Desert Development Programme, Strip Plantations along river and canal banks, etc.

(c) The drought affected tribal districts of Orissa like Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput are already included in the afforestation and social forestry programmes which are being implemented by the State Government of Orissa.

Proposals of Orissa pending forest clearance

4105. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals from Orissa for forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act are pending before Government of India; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two proposals pending with Government of India under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are under active consideration of this Ministry.

Granting title deeds to encroachers on Forest land

4106. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are granting title deeds to encroachers on forest land with little or perfunctory safeguard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the States who have granted the title deeds and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Before granting title deeds to encroachers on forest land, State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government for regularisation of encroachment on the forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. For this State Governments have to send a formal proposal in the prescribed proforma to the Central Government. Each proposal is examined for final decision in accordance with the provisions of guidelines issued for regularisation of encroachment on forest land. If the proposal is agreed to, necessary safeguards are stipulated and the